

Middlesex County, New Jersey. MCREA has made the protection of the retired school employees' state pension fund and insuring the continuation of current health care benefits among its top priorities. MCREA members are active in their community and have organized assistance programs for nursing home residents, and delivered food for the needy and financial assistance to students. They have also organized various social functions for members to attend various cultural performances and historic sites as well as extended trips throughout the United States and various foreign countries. Today, MCREA is proudly represented by over 1,675 members throughout Middlesex County and New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating the Middlesex County Retired Educators Association for 50 years of service. Their efforts continue to enhance the lives of retired educators throughout Middlesex County and New Jersey.

HONORING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark Jewish American Heritage Month.

My family's story is very much an American Jewish story. On my father's side of the family, from the Russia-Poland border, an entire 1,000-year culture was wiped out as a result of World War II. My mother's side of the family comes from Thessaloniki, Greece, where there was a very vibrant Jewish community prior to World War II, totaling half of the city's entire population. But by the time the Nazis finished, there were only 1,000 Jews left there and I am not presumptuous enough to think that my family would have been among those chosen to live.

My family escaped both the Russia-Poland area and Thessaloniki in order to come to our Nation's shores. And I grew up hearing stories of what their lives had been and how thrilled they were to come to the safe haven of the United States of America. It was the very survival of my family. Had they stayed where they lived in Europe, we would have been exterminated in the Holocaust, but we came to this remarkable country, where we've not only survived, but we've thrived.

When my grandparents came here—and this is a story that is so common among American Jewish families—they couldn't speak English. They had no money. They had no skills. The only thing they had was a dream that their children and their children's children would have a better life here in the United States than they had where they came from.

We American Jews are lucky to be a part of the fabric of this great country, to have full acceptance, to be able to access the highest levels of power, to be able to effectuate meaningful change in a very positive way by participating in the American political process. We have made more than a life for ourselves in the United States of America. We are very proud Americans, and we are very proud Jews. And we appreciate so much the fact that this country offered so many remarkable opportunities and gave us a chance not only

for survival, but to become a part of something so much bigger than ourselves.

I urge my colleagues to join me in marking this special occasion.

NALENE CASTANEDA-ROMERO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nalene Castaneda-Romero for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Nalene Castaneda-Romero is a 12th grader at Pomona High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Nalene Castaneda-Romero is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Nalene Castaneda-Romero for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

MARSHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL WE THE PEOPLE TEAM

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I would like to congratulate a group of students in my district who have earned a national title in their understanding of constitutional issues in a changing world.

Participating in the national round of this year's We the People competition in April, Isabella Burke, Catherine Pouliot, and Samantha Silver of Marshwood High School in South Berwick, Maine, took first place in the unit on "What challenges might face American constitutional democracy in the twenty-first century?"

I am very proud of the level at which these students performed especially on a question of such importance to our country.

I would also like to congratulate advisor Matt Sanzone and the rest of the Marshwood team for making it to nationals for a fifth year. It is an incredible statement of this school's dedication in teaching students the foundations of American democracy.

HONORING RABBI MENACHEM MENDEL AND NECHAMA DINA MANGEL

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to two of my constitu-

ents from southern New Jersey. Rabbi Menachem Mendel and Nechama Dina Mangel, are known to their friends as Rabbi Mendy and Dinie. They are a Chabad-Lubavitch Chassidic couple who were married in 1992 in Brooklyn, New York. They have directed Chabad Lubavitch of Camden and Burlington Counties, since settling in their New Jersey community in 1994.

Rabbi Mendy received his Rabbinical ordination in New York and together they began to offer a wide-range of educational programs to increase Jewish knowledge and observance in the area. By the spring of 1994, the Chabad Lubavitch Center was established in a storefront in Voorhees, Chabad Hebrew School was inaugurated, and Shabbat services began. In April of 2002, to accommodate the increasing number of programs and participants, Chabad moved to its present home in Cherry Hill. Rabbi Mendy and Dinie have since expanded their activities into Burlington County. In 2004, they brought Rabbi Yitzchok and Baili Kahan on board to begin the Gan Israel Day Camp at Chabad and to assist with the general growth and expansion of activities at the center. More recently, in the summer of 2010, Rabbi Menachem and Shterna Kaminker joined the staff, to work with the Hebrew-speaking community.

The Mangels are the proud parents of eight wonderful children, ka"n, ranging in age from 18–2 years. Many people have come to know Rabbi Mendy and Dinie and their children through their involvement and service to their community. They participate in their community's annual Menorah lighting ceremony, deliver Purim gift packages, teach classes in the synagogue, or invite friends and neighbors in to their home to enjoy a delicious and spirited Shabbat meal. They have opened their home and their hearts to share the warmth of Jewish life and tradition with the many Jews in our area. Rabbi Mendy and Dinie and their family have devoted their lives to ignite a passion for greater commitment to Jewish life in all whom they meet.

Rabbi Mendy will be honored this week at the annual Chai Gala celebration in Cinnaminson, New Jersey and I urge my colleagues to join me in offering my most sincere congratulations.

SAMANTHA GROENHOF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Samantha Groenhof for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Samantha Groenhof is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Samantha Groenhof is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Samantha Groenhof for winning the Arvada